

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
(Religious)
17 November



About Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231)

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary was the daughter of the King of Hungary. She was given in marriage to Ludwig, the Landgrave of Thuringia, by whom she had three children. Elizabeth had a special love for the downtrodden, which saw her build a hospital in the basement of her castle, nurse the sick, feed the hungry, and provide life-giving work for the poor.

After her husband died, she took the habit of a Franciscan Tertiary (Third Order Franciscan), devoting herself to a life of simplicity and almsgiving. She combined her good works with intense prayer and spiritual discipline.

Saint Elizabeth is the patron saint of Franciscan tertiaries, bakers, beggars, brides and the homeless.

What can we learn from Saint Elizabeth's life?

Saint Elizabeth was blessed with great wealth and resources (being a member of a Royal Family) and yet she did not keep that wealth or those resources for herself. Instead, she used these to serve those most in need. We are not all called to build hospitals or soup kitchens. However, we are called to help those in need in whichever way we can. God has blessed us with so much, we will receive even more by sharing it with others with a willing, joyful, and prayerful heart.

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Collect

O God, by whose gift Saint Elizabeth of Hungary recognized and revered Christ in the poor, grant, through her intercession, that we may serve with unflinching charity the needy and those afflicted. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Love your enemies

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I say this to you who are listening:

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.

To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too;

to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic.

Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you.

Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect?

Even sinners love those who love them.

Luke 6:27-38

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And if you do good to those who do good to you,
what thanks can you expect?
For even sinners do that much.
And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive,
what thanks can you expect?
Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount.
Instead, love your enemies and do good,
and lend without any hope of return.
You will have a great reward,
and you will be sons of the Most High,
for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.

Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves;
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves;
grant pardon, and you will be pardoned.

Give, and there will be gifts for you:

a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap;
because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Antiphon

One thing is necessary:
she has chosen the better part,
which shall not be taken away from her.

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Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Elizabeth

Elizabeth of Hungary,
you worked for those in need;
sharing your wealth with willing heart,
the hungry you would feed.

You cared for the sick in your midst,
nursing them back to health,
healing them in body and mind,
making good use of wealth.

You found work for the poor to do,
so that they could provide
for themselves and their family
and live life with great pride.

O Lord, you bless with us so much,
give us the grace to share,
with those who come to us in need,
and for them show great care.

Tune: CM 86.86

Other Music Suggestion

[Love Goes On](#) (Bernadette Farrell)

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